

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

30th March 2023

New SEI Principal Appointed



The Rev Dr Michael Hull

Rev Dr Michael Hull has been appointed as the next Principal of the Scottish Episcopal Institute, the SEC Theological Training Institute, our College.

Dr Hull, the current SEI Director of Studies, was appointed following an open recruitment process which saw a short-list of applicants invited to interview.

Dr Hull said: "I am delighted to be entrusted with the principalship of the SEI by Bishop Andrew Swift and the Institute Council. SEI's students and staff are superlative. It is a privilege to pray, study and work with them as the Director of Studies. It is an honour to be sure of their support as I take on my new role among them.

"My especial thanks go to Anne Tomlinson whose tenure as Principal has been so fruitful and from whom I have learned so much. Anne's leadership and industry are a model for us all. Her innate goodness, reflective practice and selfless example of diaconal service have made SEI a formation-led ministry training course second to none. I look forward to the SEI's continued growth and development in the years that lie ahead."

Bishop Andrew Swift, Acting Convener of the SEI Council, said: "We had a superb field of candidates, all of whom I thank wholeheartedly for being willing to take part in this discernment process. I am delighted that, following that process, Michael has accepted the panel's offer to become the next Principal of SEI. His years of experience as Director of Studies and in theological education and pastoral ministry prior to that will equip him very well indeed to lead the SEI through our next season of development.

"I look forward to working with and supporting Michael

in his new role."

Dr Hull will start in his new role at the beginning of July upon the retirement of the current Principal, the Rev Canon Dr Anne Tomlinson.

New Head of Scottish Episcopal Church Safeguarding Appointed

John Wyllie has been announced as the new Head of Safeguarding. Full news of the appointment appeared in 'Inspires Online' on the 29th of March.

John has spent the last 35 years in public service firstly for 5 years in the British Army and then in policing, from where he retired as a Detective Superintendent - his most recent role saw him leading on work to protect Ukrainian displaced people, leading the airport security operation at COP26 and also providing oversight of serious crime investigations across Scotland. He has worked across the world assisting countries to develop their training and capabilities to protect vulnerable groups, leading programmes from Bhutan to Malawi, with a range of partners including UNICEF, The Asia Foundation and the European Union. John has also worked with the 5Rights Foundation developing international efforts to protect children and young people from on-line harm. John is married to Nicola, a Primary School teacher and they have three adult children, Katie, Scott and Ross.

John will start in post on 17 April and will be contactable at the General Synod Office..

Holy Week Events for Brechin

A page on the diocesan website has been created to highlight all the services our charges are providing during Holy Week. If you have not done so already could you please email Elliott at the office with details on your Holy Week services and events.

SEI Lent Series "Teach Us to Pray: A Close Reading of the Lord's Prayer"

This series, presented by the Revd Dr Michael Hull, reads the Lord's Prayer closely and deliberately to unpack the ways in which it glorifies God and petitions for humanity's spiritual and physical needs. The Series will be offered on the Mondays of Lent 2023 at 7pm in six 30-minute webinars, each of which will

be posted on YouTube. The Series is meant to be a resource for Christians to use creatively during the Season of Lent, for example as a refresher course for individuals or a conversation starter for church groups, with discussion questions at the end of each webinar. The presenter, Revd Dr Michael Hull, is the Director of Studies at the Scottish Episcopal Institute in Edinburgh, whose previous Advent and Lent Series have been greatly valued across the Province and beyond. Session 1 to 5 are available [here](#).

The remaining sessions are:

(6) For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever (3 April)

The Series is free and open to all. Please register [here on Eventbrite](#).

“Meeting Well”: An online workshop for Laity by Place for Hope

We’ve all been around meetings for a very long time. Some have sapped our energy and others have left us feeling energised and looking forward to working on the things we need to accomplish together. Some we dread going to and others offer a space for relationship, community and growth. This Zoom short session for all in the Diocese of Brechin, offers an opportunity to focus on how we can gain the most from meetings, including:

- Opening a meeting - creating space for good conversations: virtual & physical, hearts & minds
- Agreeing ways of working and communicating together
- When we don’t agree and problems arise – some top tips
- Closing a meeting – agreeing ways forward & healthy endings

Express your interest and register here and we’ll send you a Zoom link nearer the time (probably in May).

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfCYHRuG2k5XFvjUHVKrBgs8um66lxm_t2GOXnOHnY4HWS9yA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Coronation Champions: by 2nd April

The King and Queen Consort will mark Their Coronations by celebrating inspiring volunteers who make far reaching and positive differences in their local communities with the introduction of The Coronation Champions Awards. Honouring those who freely give their time, skills and energy to the vulnerable,

individuals, organisations and communities within our society, there are a number of categories of award, including Young Coronation Champions, aged between 14-18 years. The competition is managed by The Royal Voluntary Service, who are ensuring this not only commends outstanding volunteers throughout the Four Nations, but also takes this unique opportunity to raise awareness of the impact of volunteering on communities and those that volunteer.

More detailed information, including how to nominate can be found by following the link below:



www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/coronation-champions-awards

Please note, nominations for this competition will close on 2 April.

Music at St Mary Magdalene’s

The next Wednesday lunchtime concert at St Mary Magdalene's will be on 12th April at 12.30pm when the choir of St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth will perform favourite anthems. Admission is by donation and tea and coffee will be available from 12.15. Bring your own lunch if you wish

Cost of Living Crisis: Info and Projects

The Cost of Living crisis continues, so we have placed information and resources to help with living costs on a new page on the Diocesan website. The page can be found here: Cost of Living Crisis page [here](#).

Any news to share in the Bulletin?

If you have details of upcoming events of interest or stories and photos of events around the diocese, please email Elliott Scarfe in the office on office@brechin.anglican.org